



THE RUTLAND COMPASS

2025–2026 CLEMSON ETHICS HIGHLIGHTS





PROGRAMMATIC SUCCESS

The Rutland Institute for Ethics continued to expand its reach and impact through its signature programs, Annual Ethics Day and the TIDE Conference, both of which drew strong participation and heightened the Institute's presence on campus and beyond. Building on this momentum, our student organization, CHANGE, achieved new successes while the Ethics Scholars Program continued its steady growth and influence. Students, staff, faculty, and community partners all contributed to advancing our mission. Together, these accomplishments reflect an Institute on the rise, characterized by growing engagement, stronger partnerships, and an enduring commitment to ethical leadership.





From the **DIRECTOR**

While browsing in a store in the upstate area, a young sales representative asked if I was the guy who addressed the Bridge-to-Clemson Program at Clemson University. When I confirmed that I was, he shared his memories about my presentation, which highlighted the positive impact of good decision-making. This brief encounter with a Clemson student, one of over 800 students I addressed that day, reassured me that our message is making a difference. With the masterful on-campus connections made by our Assistant Director, the Rutland Institute for Ethics transcends local impact and has a regional and global presence through various partnerships and connections. We will continue to make Mr. Rutland proud of his investment in ethics education at his alma mater!



William McCoy
Director

IMPACT *around the Clemson campus*



From the **BOARD CHAIR**

What a privilege to have been a part of the tremendous work that the Rutland Institute for Ethics (RIE) has done over the last few years. Under the leadership of Director Dr. William McCoy and Assistant Director Emily Elizabeth Cotton, along with numerous student assistants, I have seen firsthand the growing ripple effect of RIE. Not only are the effects of RIE reaching further and farther, but the amplitude of these ripples increases yearly. Making ethical decisions is a multi-faceted process, and RIE has created a straight forward tool, the STAR Decision-Making Model, that is being used not only by the Clemson community but across the country through its influence and national partnerships. The real measure of success is how Clemson Tigers—students, staff, faculty, and community members—will use the incredible tools provided by RIE in their workplaces and communities for decades to come.



Jane Dyer
Board Chair

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GROWING FIERCELY

STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT

49

CHANGE
Members

8

College
Level
Events

2

University
Wide Events

NATIONAL
IMPACT

362

STAR
Leadership
Challenge
Competitors

36

High School
Ethics Case
Competition
Teams

42

States
Reached by
Partnerships

FOUNDATION
GROWTH

25

Years of Serving
Clemson

28

Advisory
Board
Members

28

FACE
Members

CAMPUS
REACH

14%

Clemson
University
Students
Impacted

92%

Attendees who
Report Growth
in their Ethical
Decision-Making
Skills

18

Campus Partners

PROGRAM
ENGAGEMENT

357

Total TIDE
Attendees

174

Annual
Ethics Day
Attendees

20

Partnering
Courses

STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT

200

Ethics Scholars

172

Distinguished
Ethics Scholars

63

Graduating
Ethics Scholars





TIDE CONFERENCE

At the 2026 TIDE Conference, 357 attendees across 10 sessions explored the theme, *Fulfilling Our Mission One Decision at a Time*, examining how everyday choices shape ethical leadership. Through engaging panels and breakout discussions, students reflected on decision-making in personal, academic, and professional contexts while developing practical tools for ethical action.

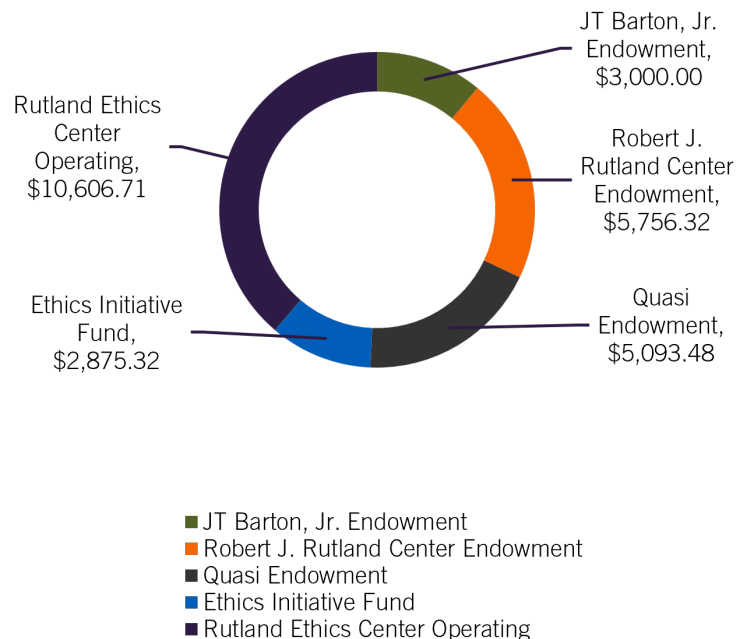
FISCAL REPORT *2025-2026*

Income	FY 26 Budget	FY 26 Actual	FY 27 Budget
University Support	\$ 310,147.92	\$ 290,473.92	\$ 294,463
Advisory Board Donations	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,070.30	\$ 15,000
General Donations	\$ -	\$ 31,000	\$ -
JT Barton, Jr. Endowment	\$ 3,657	\$ 3,657	\$ 3,657
Robert J. Rutland Center Endowment	\$ 9,810	\$ 9,810	\$ 11,731
Quasi Endowment	\$ 10,386	\$ 10,386	\$ 10,693
Graduate School Co-Sponsorship	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,080	\$ 2,000
Ethics Case Competition Revenue	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,800	\$ 3,750
Total	\$ 352,000.92	\$ 369,277.22	\$ 341,294.00

Total Expenditures

Expenditure	FY 26 Actual
Salaries	\$ 293,767.40
Annual Ethics Day	\$ -
TIDE Conference	\$ 1,241.10
Ethics Scholars Program	\$ 1,821.79
College Ethics Symposium	\$ 747.27
CHANGE Student Organization	\$ 3,000
J.T. Barton, Jr. Memorial Ethics Award	\$ 249.17
Cherry Braswell Rutland Memorial Ethics Award	\$ 1,500
Business Operations	\$ 3,194.64
Office & Staff Expenses	\$ 12,284.38
Total	\$ 317,805.75

FY 26 Program Expenditures By Account





REACHING NEW HEIGHTS 2026–2027 GOALS

1.

Develop increased partnerships with academic colleges resulting from the university's undergraduate general education revision initiative.

2.

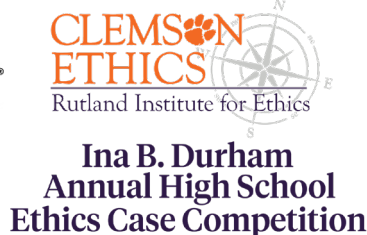
Implement a robust ethics education assessment process for students in BUS 3010, Business Ethics.

3.

Grow the Institute's overall programmatic footprint for collegiate attendees by 10%.



Clemson
Elevate





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